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**Unit 6, Part 1 Notes – Enzymes and Introduction to Metabolism**

Ms. OK, AP Biology

1. The chemistry of life is organized into metabolic pathways.

a.

b.

c.

The total of all the chemical reactions occurring in an organism is called **metabolism**.

All metabolic pathways consist of a series of reactions which convert one molecule (the reactant) into another (the product).

***See Image #1***

**Catabolic pathways** release energy by breaking down complex molecules to simpler compounds.

i. A major catabolic pathway is cellular respiration, in which the sugar glucose is

broken down in the presence of oxygen to carbon dioxide and water.

ii. Hydrolysis is also an example of a catabolic pathway.

d. **Anabolic pathways** consume energy to build complicated molecules from simpler compounds.

i. The synthesis of polypeptides from amino acids (i.e. dehydration synthesis) is an example of an anabolic pathway.

2. Organisms transform energy

a. **Energy** is the capacity to do work.

i.

Energy exists in various forms, and cells transform energy from one type into another.

b. During every transfer or transformation of energy, some energy is converted to heat and lost to the environment

***See Image #2***

c. Chemical reactions can be classified as either **exergonic** or **endergonic** based on the

change in energy that occurs because of the reaction.

i. An exergonic reaction is one that releases energy. These reactions are typically catabolic.

ii. An endergonic reaction is one that absorbs energy. These reactions are typically anabolic.

iii. The energy released by exergonic reactions can be used to “power” endergonic reactions. For example, The breakdown of ATP (adenosine triphosphate) releases energy by breaking the bond between the last two phosphate groups to create the products ADP (adenosine diphosphate) and Pi (inorganic phosphate). The energy from this catabolic reaction can be used to power an anabolic reaction like the creation of polysaccharides from monosaccharides.

***See Images #3 and 4***

3. Enzymes speed up metabolic reactions by lowering energy barriers.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

Many chemical reactions occur spontaneously in cells but at very slow rates.

A **catalyst** is a chemical that speeds up the rate of a reaction without being consumed by the reaction. In other words, the catalyst can be reused many times. An **enzyme** is a catalytic protein.

The initial investment of energy for starting a reaction is the **free energy of activation** or

**activation energy** (EA).

Activation energy is the amount of energy necessary to push the reactants over an energy

barrier so that the bonds can be broken in the reactants and reformed to create different product molecules.

There is not enough energy at the temperatures typical of the cell for most organic

molecules to make it over the hump of activation energy. Heat would speed up reactions, but it would also denature proteins and kill cells. Enzymes speed reactions by lowering EA.

***See Images #5 and 6***

4. Enzymes are substrate specific

***See Image #7***

a.

b.

c.

d.

The reactant that an enzyme acts on is the **substrate.**

The enzyme binds to the substrate and while they are bound, the enzyme either bends the substrate in such a way that it can break into multiple products or brings multiple substrates close to one another so they can form one product.

Enzymes are often named for the substrate with the suffix "ase." *e.g.,* an enzyme which digests protein is a protease; one that digests lipids is a lipase. The reaction catalyzed by each enzyme is very specific.

The **active site** is the area of the enzyme where the reaction actually occurs. The active site

is like a pocket into which the substrate fits. There is specificity between the enzyme and substrate because of the shape of the active site.

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

As the substrate enters the active site, interactions between the substrate and the

amino acids of the enzyme causes the enzyme to change shape slightly, leading to a

tighter **induced fit** that improves the fit between the substrate and the enzyme.

In most cases, substrates are held in the active site by weak interactions, such as hydrogen bonds and ionic bonds.

R groups of a few amino acids on the active site catalyze the conversion of substrate to product. *(Remember: the enzyme either bends the substrate in such a way that it can break into multiple products or brings multiple substrates close to one another so they can form one product.)*

The product then leaves the active site.

f. *Remember: Enzymes are unaffected by the reaction and are reusable.*

g. A single enzyme molecule can catalyze thousands of reactions a second.

***See Image #8***

5. Factors affecting the rate of enzyme-catalyzed reactions:

a. Temperature

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

As with non-catalyzed reactions, the reaction rate increases with increasing

temperature because the kinetic energy of the molecules is greater and closer to the

activation energy. Also, the increased molecular movement means more frequent collisions between molecules.

For enzyme-catalyzed reactions, as temperature increases, collisions between

substrates and active sites occur more frequently so reaction rate increases.

This is advantageous for endothermic organisms because they can maintain body temperature close to the optimum temperature for enzymes.

If temperature increases too much, the protein denatures (loses its shape) and the reaction slows down or stops.

b. pH

i. A change in pH (*i.e.*, [H+] or [OH-]) can affect the tertiary structure of proteins.

ii. Because there is such high specificity between the active site and the substrate, if

the shape of the active site changes, it will no longer match the substrate as well.

c. Substrate concentration

i.

ii.

At low [S] (substrate concentration), an increase in [S] speeds binding of substrate molecule to available active sites. With increasing [S], the enzyme spends less time "waiting" for substrate and more time catalyzing reactions.

At high substrate concentrations, the active sites on all enzymes are busy and we

say the enzyme is **saturated**.

d. Enzyme concentration

i. When an enzyme is saturated, the only way to increase productivity is to add more

enzyme molecules.

6. To be efficient, the cell must be able to control enzyme activity. In many cases enzymes can be

inhibited (to slow them down) or activated (to speed them up) we will look here only at inhibition.

***See Image #9***

a. **Competitive inhibition**

i. Some inhibitors resemble the substrate and compete for binding to the active site,

preventing the binding of substrate.

ii. Competitive inhibition can be partially overcome by increasing the concentration of

the substrate.

b. **Non-competitive inhibition**

i.

ii.

iii.

Noncompetitive inhibitors slow enzymatic reactions by binding to another part of the molecule.

The inhibitor binds to a site other than the active site and causes a conformational

change in the enzyme so the active site shape no longer matches that of the substrate.

Toxins and poisons are often irreversible enzyme inhibitors.

***See Image #10***

c. **Allosteric Regulation**

i.

ii.

iii.

Regulatory molecules bind to an allosteric site, a specific site away from the active site.

Allosteric activators are regulatory molecules that bind to the allosteric site and speed up the rate of enzyme action by changing the shape of the active site such that it better fits the substrate.

Allosteric inhibitors are regulatory molecules that bind to the allosteric site and lower the rate of reaction by causing a change in the shape of the active site. (Note: Non-competitive inhibition is a type of allosteric regulation)

***See Images #11 and 12***

d. **Feedback Regulation**

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

Most reactions occur as part of a metabolic pathway.

By controlling an early step in the pathway, the entire path can be controlled.

In feedback inhibition (AKA negative feedback), an end-product from a chain of reactions is an inhibitor of an enzyme in the chain.

Feedback inhibition is an especially efficient way of regulating enzyme activity.

(1) It is self-regulating.

(2) The cell does not waste chemical resources by synthesizing more product

than is needed.

v. Positive feedback occurs when a product of the pathway acts as an activator on an enzyme earlier in the pathway and increases synthesis of the product.

*\*\*\*Thank you to Mr. Gallant!\*\*\**